

from the U.S. Department of Education. Lower Merion has a record number of National Merit Scholars and its students have just won their fifth consecutive State championship in the Academic Decathlon.

The achievements of the students and athletes of Lower Merion represent all that is good about our public education system. The school district and the students educated there are a monument to what can happen when local officials and parents work together to craft an educational and athletic program which provides a well-rounded background as these young men and women prepare for their adult lives.

Mr. Speaker, as the Representative who has been given the honor of serving the people of Lower Merion and the entire 13th Congressional District, I offer my congratulations to the student athletes of the Lower Merion Boys Basketball Team, their coaches, and families on the occasion of this great State championship. And I offer best wishes for a future I know has been forged in the fires of hard work, strengthened by the dedication to excellence, brightened by the light of potential and nourished by a caring community and family.

IN HONOR OF MS. LIDIA GIL-  
RAMOS FOR DISTINGUISHED AND  
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE  
SENIOR CITIZENS OF NORTH  
HUDSON COUNTY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos, an outstanding individual who has distinguished herself by her selfless commitment to the senior citizens of Hudson County. Ms. Ramos will be honored at the 22d anniversary dinner of Tertulias de Antano, a senior citizen recreational program she founded.

Ms. Ramos emigrated from Cuba and arrived in Union City, NJ in 1965. She is a woman who seems to have been born for social work and community service. In Cuba, she taught primary school during the day and volunteered her nights teaching elderly farm workers who never had the opportunity to attend school. Upon receiving her master's degree from the University of Havana, she became director of a large nursing home in San Miguel de los Banos, Matanzas in central Cuba.

Once in the United States, she found employment as an income maintenance specialist for the Food Stamp Program in Jersey City and undertook further training in working with elderly citizens. Her service to seniors began in the Cuban refugee program of Union City. During her service, she witnessed the dejection and solitude that many Cuban seniors experienced in their new surroundings. Determined to address and to improve the social environment of the Cuban senior community, she founded the Tertulias de Antano recreational program on October 13, 1974.

Ms. Ramos devotes much of her time to coordinating the details of the program, which provides seniors with information on health care issues, English-language programs, and

social events within the community. Today, not only do seniors in the Cuban-American community praise the program, but so do seniors from other Latin American countries now living in Hudson County. All this is due to the vision and enduring commitment of one woman dedicated to the overall happiness of the senior community.

Ms. Ramos' commitment to the senior citizens of Hudson County exemplifies the true meaning of compassion and community service. For her outstanding work and leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this wonderful individual. I am proud to have such a remarkable woman living and working within my district.

RECOGNIZING AARON MICHAEL  
EINBOND, 5TH PLACE WINNER OF  
THE 55TH ANNUAL WESTING-  
HOUSE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young man, Aaron Michael Einbond of New York, NY. Aaron, a senior attending Hunter College High School in Manhattan was chosen on Monday March 11, 1996, as the fifth place winner in the prestigious Westinghouse Science Awards.

Since 1942, the Westinghouse Science Talent Search has identified and encouraged high school seniors to pursue careers in science, mathematics, and engineering. The search is sponsored by Westinghouse Electronic Corp. through the Westinghouse Foundation in partnership with Science Service, a nonprofit organization.

Over the years, more than 113,000 students from all over the country have entered projects into this prestigious competition. This year, 735 high schools from all 50 States submitted entries to the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Only 40 students may participate in the final round of judging and from that pool of 40 students, only 10 finalists are awarded scholarships.

Aaron's project explored a new protein domain through the use of protein sequence database searches. It resulted in the isolation of two human genes.

Aaron is not new to winning awards. He is a three time winner of the Manhattan Borough Science Fair competition and a multiple winner of various school science fairs. This talented young man is also an award winning composer and gifted musician who plays the clarinet. This fall, Aaron will enroll as a freshman at Harvard University where he will have the opportunity to pursue his two loves: music and science.

I congratulate Aaron on his accomplishment of being awarded a Westinghouse Science Award and I salute the Westinghouse Science Talent Search and all the winners for acknowledging the hard work of young people like Aaron.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 3136, CONTRACT WITH  
AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT ACT  
OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 28, 1996*

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3136, the Contract With American Advancement Act. Over the past 15 months, Republicans have made truly historic efforts to change business as usual here in Washington, DC. Central to those efforts has been our drive to finally put our Nation on a credible path to a balanced budget.

Despite the fact that Republicans crafted the first balanced budget since 1969, we have learned that a supposedly revolutionary idea like balancing the budget takes two elections. Despite this setback, we have not given up the fight.

Republicans continue to believe that Washington spends too much, taxes too much, and that government is too big. That is why we are doing all we can to reduce spending, reduce taxes, and shrink the size of government.

While we may not be able to accomplish as much this year as we had hoped, we are dedicated to doing as much as we can—right now. That brings me to the measure before us today. While we continue to work to keep our promises to the American people for a balanced budget, we must not put the Nation at undue risk. This vote—to authorize the Government to borrow more money by increasing the Nation's debt limit—is not easy.

Congress has twice sent the President a bill that extends the Government's borrowing authority. President Clinton has vetoed both bills. Now Republicans again act to avoid default.

Our current debt limit stands at \$4.9 trillion. And it is growing everyday. Someone, someday has to pay off this debt. I do not want to leave it to the next generation. We have a responsibility to our children, and to our children's children, to end this pattern of destructive out-of-control spending.

Mr. Chairman, \$4.9 trillion is a lot of money. To put that figure into perspective I want to share just a few facts. If we were to pay all of the debt off today, a family of four would need to contribute over \$72,000 as their share of the debt. A single person's bill would come to just \$18,000.

Every week we continue to have this debt, that family's personal share of the debt rises by \$89. Every month—\$383. For most families, this is a monthly car payment which ends in 4 or 5 years. But this is not a car payment, it is our national debt. You keep giving, but you get nothing in return and you continue to pass the tab onto our children.

Included in this measure is what I believe to be one of the most important tools necessary to fix our irresponsible spending habits—the line-item veto. To demonstrate how important this tool is, I am willing to give the authority to a President of a different party. To those who say the President will use it for political purposes, I say nonsense. The President currently has veto authority. With line item authority he simply could remove the misguided pork barrel spending without killing the entire bill.